

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF BIRDS

The sequence of nomenclature follow that of *A Species List of British and Irish Birds* (1971), published by the British Trust for Ornithology.

Fulmar (*Fulmaris glacialis*). No census of the occupied nesting sites was taken in 1974 but 37 were counted at Gannet's Rock on 26th August.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*. Very many were seen on the crossing on 2nd June and a count at the north-east point from 1850 to 1920 hours on 8th June gave 380 passing north and a further 250 on the water.

Great Shearwater *Puffinus gravis*. One seen on crossing on 2nd June and one off Battery on 7th September.

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*. One seen on the crossing on 2nd June. One also on 11th June.

Gannet *Sula bassana*. Seen offshore from May to October. Principal numbers, 14 on 17th May, 27 on July 30th, over 30 on 26th August and usually ten during September end October.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*. Six were seen on 2nd April and singles on 20th and 24th April.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*. No census of the breeding sites was taken in 1974. Present all the year with 35 at Landing Bay on 26th August in one group.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*. Singles were seen on 20th and 24th April and two each day from 20th June to 13th July followed by singles on most days until 23rd October. On 21st August one was found dead a few yards from Rocket while two were seen in flight on the same date.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*. No residents this year but one on 21st June and three on 20th August.

Teal *Anas crecca*. One on 28th March and five on 30th August.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*. A single bird was seen near Gannet's Rock on 1st September and in West Side Field on 3rd September.

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*. Singles on 2nd and 29th April.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*. A single female stayed from 17th to 24th May hunting over the southern half of the island, moving to Gannet's Combe on 24th May where it was seen at times until 9th June when it was in primary moult.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*. One came from the south-east at about mid-day on 18th July and circled over the eastern side of the island for about five minutes before gaining height and moving away northwards.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*. One, first seen on 31st May and then regularly until at least the end of October. On 15th and 16th September, two were seen together, an immature female and an adult male.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*. Singles were seen on 27th August, 6th to 12th September and a very late though definite one seen in flight and perched at Quarter Wall after being disturbed from a newly killed Song Thrush on 24th October.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*. Single birds seen on 27th March, 9th April, 28th July, and 19-20th October.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*. Two on 2nd April, singles 10th and 27th April, 3rd, 8th and 25th May and 13th June, three on 20th June, one on 28th June, two from 18th July to 12th August, three on 19th and five on 21st August and up to five until at least the end of October.

Quail *Coturnix coturnix*. One just outside Big St Johns on 5th May.

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*. The single remaining cock bird was seen at Halfway Wall on 1st July and at Tillage Field on 8th August.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*. One at Low Millcombe on 19th October.

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*. The only record for the year was the one that stayed from December 1974 and during January at Millcombe.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*. Present all year as usual, 13 on 29th August and 15 on 24th September were counted.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*. Bred as usual but no census taken, 50 were counted on 19th October.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*. Two on 20th April, then no more for the spring, first returning single on 24th July, one on 19th August, up to six during September and the last two on 11th October.

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*. Up to three during March and April then none until 30 on 30th August and small numbers of up to 8 during September and October.

Dotterel *Eudromias morinellus*. One on 28th August, two on 30th, one with a broken wing on 31st August, two on 1st September, one on 5th, two on 4th and one on 7th September. The one with the broken wing was carefully operated on by C. Baillie, N. Clark and Gianetta Rands on 1st September and then fed and kept in captivity until it could be taken to release on the mainland.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*. None recorded in the spring, 20th August, the first, one on 31st August, one on 6th September and three on 7th.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*. Ten on 28th and 29th March, five on 1st April, singles until 8th April then none until the first for autumn on 3rd August increasing to six by the end of the month, singles in September and ten on 21st October.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*. One near Quarry Pond on 19th October and one flying over South-east fields at dusk on 23rd October.

Curlew *Numenius arquata*. Not more than two in March, up to three in April, May and June, increasing to 27 on 23rd and 35 on 27th June, variable numbers of up to 45 in July, small numbers during August but 100 on 28th and 200 on 29th August, not more than 50 in September and only up to three in October.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*. The first four were seen on 21st April then a steady spring passage of up to 55 by 30th April, 60 on 7th May dropping to 16 on 17th May then up to four until 8th June. Autumn migration started with five on 21st August and 50 on the following day but not more than four during September until 13th.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*. Usually two from 20th to 25th April.

Green sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*. One only on 21st August.

Common Sandpiper *Tringa hypoleucos*. Singles in May on 6th, 25th and 30th. Three on 14th September was the only autumn record.

Redshank *Tringa totanus*. Singles 22-23rd and 27-28th June and 16-17th July would be returning birds on early autumn movement.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*. A single autumn migrant on 21st August.

Knot *Calidris canutus*. One on 23rd September.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*. One near Rat Island on 20th October.

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*. 6th to 13th September, one which stayed on Airfield until 10th and then at Three-quarter wall until 13th.

The record has been accepted by the Rarities Committee, see separate detailed account. The first for Lundy and Devon.

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*. One on 2nd September. The 10th Lundy record and on exactly the same date as in 1973.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*. Spasmodic spring movements of three to five from 20th to 24th April, up to three 9th to 12th May and 16th to 19th May, two on 23rd May and four on 31st May with four on 3rd June. On return movements, singles on 16th and 17th July, one on 20th September and two on 25th September.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*. Singles on 18th and 27th August and 8th September constitute only the 7th, 8th and 9th dated Lundy records.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*. None in spring but a single in autumn on 13th and 14th September.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*. 6th September, one, 7th September was a different bird and 14th and 16th September a third bird. All three were seen on Airfield and are 7th, 8th and 9th Lundy records. See the separate and detailed account. The records have been accepted by the Rarities Committee.

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudatus*. One on 20th June standing in the pasture to the south and north of the Old Light before flying out to sea is a first record for Lundy.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*. Present all year and no breeding census made. A notable increase took place on 5th September when c. 150 were counted, mostly immature birds.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*. No breeding census was made.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*. Present all year but no breeding census made.

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*. One on 2nd April on the East side of the island. See separate and detailed account of this immature bird.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*. No census of the breeding population taken this year.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*. Two on 2nd June on crossing.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*. None on spring migration but an early returning bird on 27th June, one or two 4th to 16th September with seven on 15th.

Razorbill *Alca torda*. No breeding census taken in 1974. Seen regularly.

Guillemot *Uria aalge*. No breeding census taken in 1974 but seen as numerous on crossing on 2nd June.

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*. No census of breeding birds was taken in 1974. One 16th May, ten were seen and on 27th May, 30 were counted between Battery and Puffin Slope while on 29th May three pairs were noted at Jenny's Cove.

Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus*. Seen regularly in small numbers.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*. An early migrant from 26th to 29th April, one on 4th May then regular from 10th May with up to seven daily until the end of June. One on 5th and two on 9th were the only July records and none were seen in August but six appeared on 13th September and still three on the next day.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*. The first one was seen on 27th March and numbers increased during April from five to 15 then fairly constant but peaks of 30 on 7th May and 25 on 15th. Up to 16 were seen during June with a peak of 35 on 2nd but not more than 9 were counted during July. Although birds were seen from August to October, no regular counts were made and there was no evidence of breeding.

Cuckoo *Cuculus apus*. The first one was seen on 9th April, singles on 22nd and 27th April, ones and twos during May but singles in June on 10th and 26th with at least three on 27th and 28th. None were seen in July and only one in August on 22nd.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*. One on 20th March at Millcombe. Very few are recorded on Lundy.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*. One on 23rd April and singles on 13th, 14th and 22nd October.

Swift *Apus apus*. First seen on 7th May and then on most days until the end of July with never more than 15 birds at one time. Very few appeared during August and the last two were seen on 2nd September.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*. Singles on 5th and 13th September.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*. Present through out the year but no heavy passage movements this year.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*. The first one appeared on 5th April and up to 15 were regular until 29th with an influx of 70 on 30th April and peaks in May of 50 on 7th, 100 on 14th and 70 on 25th, not more than 15 during June and up to five during the first nine days of July. No breeding this year and the autumn peak was concentrated on 15th September with 500/600 and many thousands on 16th September. The last five were noted on 22nd October.

House Martin *Delichon urbica*. The first three on 20th April, two on 30th April, one or two on 8th and 9th May, 10 on 13th May, up to 15 until the end of May but 70 on 26th. Not more than 10 during June and up to five in July and none after a single on 1st August. Two half-finished nests were built on the Old Light.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*. Singles on 2nd and 10th April, 8 on 11th April and 10 on 30th, up to 10 frequent in May and one or two until 7th June. Up to five from 5th July until 9 on 16th August. The autumn peak was concentrated on 15th September, 100, and 16th September when many hundreds passed.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*. One at Millcombe on 25th and 26th May.

Raven *Corvus corax*. At least five successful breeding pairs, eight together on 9th September.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*. Resident as usual, 9 together on 14th October.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*. One on 2nd April, five on 17th May and one on 26th May.

Great Tit *Parus major*. One only on 5th October.

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*. One on 26th and 27th March and one on 20th October.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*. Resident as usual but no census taken.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*. One on 5th April, one on 28th May, one on 29th and two on 30th June, two on 1st July and one on 22nd October.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*. A spring peak of 40 on 28th and 30 on 29th March, small numbers until 18 on 21st April and a single on 29th April. In autumn the first appeared on 3rd October increasing to over 40 on 13th October and 500 passing north-west on 24th October.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*. Up to five in March and April. No autumn movements.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*. 60 on 28th March, 30 on 29th March and last three on 1st April. In autumn c. 200 appeared on 3rd October, rapidly passing on but on 24th October, 2,500 were counted passing north-west.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*. A good spring movement, first one appearing on 28th March but none until 12 at least were counted on 21st April, falling to 7 on 23rd and only one from 28th April until three on 6th May and the last two on 16th May.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*. Present all year as usual but no census of the nesting pairs was taken. There was no autumn movement this year.

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*. One on 27th March was the forerunner of the spring movement which increased to 15 and 20 daily by the end of April and during May. No census was taken of the few breeding pairs. Autumn passage started with over 40 on 26th August rising to a mass movement of 100 on 9th September and 300 on 15th. Singles of the Greenland race were seen on 8th and 12th September.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*. One from 26th to 29th March and one on 21st April but no autumn movement this year.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*. A single bird was seen on 22nd April followed by three on 4th May and then often singles until 26th May. A small autumn movement from 30th August with a single bird rising to five on 12th September when the last were recorded.

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*. One on 9th April, one or two 24th to 30th April, usually three from 4th to 7th May. A single bird appeared on 31st August and another on 10th and 11th October.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochrurus*. Singles on 1st and 9th April were the only ones in spring. An autumn bird was seen on 21st October.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*. Resident as usual but no census taken of the breeding birds. No autumn influx this year.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*. One on 29th and 30th April, one or two 6th to 8th May and one on 14th May were the only spring records this year which has been a poor one generally for this species. There is a single autumn record of one on 16th September.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*. The first one for the spring was seen on 29th April and one or two throughout May with a peak of 8 on 7th. One on 3rd June was the last and none appeared in autumn.

Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*. One on 17th May. only

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*. Two on 26th July.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*. The first migrant on 21st April then up to five until 8th May. In autumn three were found on 21st October, one staying until 23rd October.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*. Singles on 8th May, 26th and 30th May with two on 31st and one from 1st to 11th June. A single autumn bird on 10th September.

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*. The first two on 29th April were followed by up to six during May and singles from 1st to 3rd June and 11th to 13th June. In autumn one on 11th September and two on 15th were the only records.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*. Singles on 21st, 24th and 30th April and one or two from 13th to 18th May were the only records.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*. Recorded daily from 31st March, passage continuing until 16th May with the peak occurring of 60 on 4th. With persistent westerly winds none were recorded in autumn. One pair bred.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*. First two on 26th March with up to 100 by 21st April and most of 150 *Phylloscopus sp.* seen on 29th April were probably of this species but numbers diminished rapidly in early May, and only one or two were found from 16th to 31st and only singles in June with not more than two in July. There was no autumn movement with westerly winds. The last one was on 21st October.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*. One on 14th May, one on 27th and 28th June and one in autumn on 5th September.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*. A notable spring movement this year with about 50 being present in late March diminishing to only two in mid April. Five were seen on 6th May and the last one on 13th May. In autumn three appeared on 11th October and increased to over 20 by 14th October.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*. One on 21st April was joined by another on 24th and a single was found on 7th May. In autumn two on 10th and 15th September and two on 24th October were recorded.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*. The first two on spring passage were on 12th May rising to 15 on 14th, 25 on 26th and 20 on 31st May but only one or two in June until 9th. In autumn a few appeared on 4th and 5th September and the last one on 28th September.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*. The first migrant appeared on 28th April and two more on 7th May. In autumn the first was on 27th August and a steady passage continued with numbers increasing to 10 on 11th September and 15 on 14th.

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*. Breeding as usual and seen all year with no evidence of movement.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*. One on 23rd September, two on 24th and a single on 20th October.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*. No census was made of the breeding population but 23 were counted on 14th May. Very little movement was noted in the autumn but they were more numerous on 1st September.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*. Spring passage was noted from 10th April until 19th May but only in small numbers of up to four. In the autumn two were seen on 20th September, one staying until the next day.

Rock Pipit *Anthus spinoletta petrosus*. No census of the breeding population was made but they were present as usual. One seen on 29th August to be ringed was probably one of the five that were ringed in 1973.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrelli*. Up to four from 28th March to 2nd April, one on 22nd April, up to 3 in June, a pair reared four young which fledged on 17th July. Two were seen in September and October.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba alba*. One on 2nd September increased to six or seven from 4th to 16th and 22 on 18th September.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*. One on 16th September and three on 21st October.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*. One on 29th April was the only spring record. Two on 29th August, one on 4th and four on 8th September were the only autumn migrants.

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*. One was seen and trapped on the Terrace on 22nd October. It proved to be an immature female.

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*. One in Quarter wall cottages area on 20th June and one immature at Millcombe 21st to 25th September.

The records have been accepted by the Rarities Committee.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*. One on 30th May.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*. Resident as usual and no significant movements noted.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*. One on 16th and 17th May, six on 22nd October and 250 on 24th October.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*. One to five in April, one pair bred in May. None seen after 2nd June until one appeared on 6th October.

Linnet *Acanthis cannabina*. During a very heavy passage of finches on 24th October, 2,000 were estimated.

Twite *Acanthis flavirostris*. One near Tibbet's on 23rd October.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*. One female from 1st to 9th April.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*. Present all year. During a very large movement of finches flying north-west c. 5,000 were estimated to be Chaffinches.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*. Two on 9th April and one on 10th were the only spring birds. On 24th October 50 arrived.

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*. Singles on 17th September and 23rd to 24th October.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*. One on 17th, 26th and 30th May and one on 22nd October.

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponica*. One on 18th September, one on 22nd October and four on 24th October.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*. Three on 1st September and singles on 14th and 21st October.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*. Present all year and bred as usual.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*. Two on 17th May, one to 10th and two from 7th to 12th June, one staying to 14th.

RARITY DESCRIPTIONS

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*. 6th to 13th September, 1974.

First seen at 18.15 hours on 6th September at Airfield by NAC at the south-east corner feeding with a Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*. CCB and RWB were fetched and photographs taken but at that stage the observers were taking notes of the Buff-breasted Sandpiper thinking that the other bird might perhaps prove to be a juvenile Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* although this seemed to be doubtful.

On consulting reference books in the evening and comparing notes it became clear that the black legs and size ruled out Pectoral Sandpiper and that all the details fitted with Baird's Sandpiper.

The next morning a search was made but storm force winds prevented close examination of a small sandpiper that might have been the bird but on the afternoon of 8th September it was found on south of Airfield and full notes taken and the identity firmly established.

Less dumpy than a Sanderling, it had longer primaries and constantly held its head down in a manner that gave the impression that it had a short neck. The brownish crown appeared to be slightly streaked, perhaps due to pale feather edges and these striations continued down the forehead to the bill and down the back of the head to merge into the neck pattern; an almost white supercilium separated the crown from a light grey-brown eyestripe which passed behind the eye to a buff patch behind which it curved downwards; the chin was white and ear coverts buff and some flecking behind the cheeks merged into the light grey-brown neck which had fine dark streaks which were heavier at the base of the neck.

The mantle and scapulars had a scaly appearance due to grey-brown feathering with light cream coloured edgings, some feathers being darker than others but close examination showed that this darker area was only at the ends of the feathers. The primaries were grey-brown, slightly darker than the secondaries but slightly lighter than the tail and they extended to beyond the tail; greater wing coverts grey-brown, lesser and median wing coverts darker.

The breast was a light buffish-grey with fine dark grey streaking with no defined line of demarcation from the very clean white belly.

The eyes were very dark with a very light grey narrow eye-ring. The legs very dark grey but appeared black unless seen in bright sunlight and were much shorter than those of the adjacent Buff-breasted Sandpiper. The bill was only very slightly decurved, had a very slight thickening at the tip, was very black in colour and was longer than that of the Buff-breasted Sandpiper but shorter than the bill of Dunlin.